



This road grader burned near the Mountain Road/Paint Creek Loop and FM 2034 intersection on Saturday. The operator, Jimmy Walker, was back on duty shortly after recovering (Texas-style) from his injuries.



This house on the Blackburn Ranch on Highway 208 was spared due to efforts of firefighters on the scene.

**... Wildcat Fire**

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Sheriff's Department, Texas Parks and Wildlife officers, and DPS troopers, started going door-to-door in Bronte. Shortly thereafter, the evacuation order was withdrawn after the original report of the breach could not be verified.

Also on Sunday afternoon, the fire was racing to cross FM 2662 on the east end near Highway 277. Firefighters were able to stop it from crossing near the McIntyre residence. It also was burning across the Arrott's Ranch.

On Sunday night into Monday, the fire continued to rage, and the Tennyson area was evacuated. Mount Margaret burned, but firefighters were able to save the homes on Tennyson School Road. It did cross Highway 277 in spots on Monday. One spot was just south of Tennyson, between FM 2333 and Hartman Lane. It also crossed near Simpson Ranch Feedyard.

Air support was involved in the firefighting efforts. However, their help on

Sunday, Monday and Tuesday enabled the containment that we now enjoy. Helicopters and spotter planes were on scene early with larger planes being used in the latter stages. On Monday, a heavy equipment operator was surrounded by the fire when spotted by a helicopter that swooped in and dropped its load providing a way to safety for the operator. On Tuesday, a DC 10 was used to put on the final touches. This was the first time this type of plane has been used in Texas. It carries a 12,000 gallon load

of fire retardant.

By Tuesday afternoon, the only evacuation order still remaining was the west side of Highway 277 from FM 2662 to the Goodyear Proving Grounds.

A collision between two out-of-town fire units occurred on Highway 277 near Tennyson on Monday with no injuries reported. The cause of the collision was limited visibility due to the heavy smoke.

By Tuesday, road closures

issued up to that time included Highway 277 from FM 2105 in Tom Green County to Bronte, FM 2333 from Tennyson to Miles, FM 3115 from Hwy 158 to FM 2333, FM 2662, Highway 158 from Bronte to Sterling

City, FM 2034 from Highway 158 to US Highway 87, and Highway 208 from Robert Lee to San Angelo.

At presstime, no road closures remain in effect.

The only other injury reported to the

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